Pakistan does not furnish details of the Indian prisoners lodged in various jails in Pakistan on a case-by-case basis.

The Protocol on Consular Access signed between India and Pakistan in 1982 provides for the exchange of prisoners between India and Pakistan. Since the signing of this protocol, 655 Indian prisoners have been repatriated from Pakistan.

The question of early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan has repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan at the official as well as at the political level. Government are of the view that this is a humanitarian problem and should be resolved as such. We would continue to make all efforts at every opportunity in this regard.

Following the 1971 Indo-Pak war, 532 Indian defence personnel who were taken as prisoners by Pakistan, were repatriated to India. However, according to available information, at present 54 Indian defence personnel are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. The question of their release has been repeatedly taken up with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan, however, maintain that there are no Indian defence personnel in their custody.

LPG Dealership in Gujarat

*597. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of LPG dealers appointed by Government during 1993-94, 1994-95 and so far in 1995 in the country, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat; and

(b) what is the action plan of Government for issuance of new LPG dealerships in Gujarat in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The number of LPG distributorships commissioned in the country during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 was 188 and 402 respectively, out of which 28 LPG distributorships were commissioned in Gujarat.

(b) In addition to 77 proposals pending from previous marketing plans, 64 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG marketing plan 1994—96 for Gujarat.

उत्तर प्रदेश में डीजल और पेट्रोल की कमी

*598. श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:
श्री राजनाथ सिंह:

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कई महीनों से समस्त उत्तर प्रदेश में डीजल और पेट्रोल की भारी कमी रही है जिसका उत्तर प्रदेश के उद्योगों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है, और डीजल एवं पेट्रोल की कमी से किसानों को भी भारी नुकसान हुआ है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) इस कमी को पूरा करने और डीजल एवं पेट्रोल की पर्याप्त मात्रा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं; और

(घ) उत्तर प्रदेश को उसकी आवश्यकतानुसार डीजल एवं पेट्रोल की आपूर्ति करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। उत्तर प्रदेश सहित उत्तरी राज्य पेट्रोल और डीजल की कुछ कमी का सामना कर रहे हैं।

यह कमी अप्रैल और मई के महीनों में कृषि क्षेत्र की डीजल की बढ़ी हुई आवश्यकताओं, मथुरा रिफाइनरी की विभिन्न इकाइयों की आपात बंदी और आयात व परिवहन बाधाओं के कारण है।

(ग) और (घ) स्थिति से निपटने के लिए निम्नलिखित उपाय किए गए हैं;

(1) विजाग, कांडला और कोयाली से वैकल्पिक आपूर्तियों का प्रबंधन किया गया।

(2) बजबज से पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के स्थानों तक अतिरिक्त टैंक वेगन लदानों का प्रबंध किया गया।

(3) बरौनी रिफाइनरी को 20 टी सम टी अतिरिक्त कच्चे तेल का आबंटन किया गया है और कोचीन रिफाइनरीज से एम एस को उत्तरी क्षेत्र में भेजा गया।

(4) मई और जून, 1995 के दौरान मथुरा रिफाइनरी पर अधिकतम स्तर पर क्रूड संसाधन की योजना बनाई गई है।

(5) कांडला में पी ओ एल टैंकरों को अग्रता बर्थिंग प्रदान करने के लिए भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय से अनुरोध किया गया है।

(6) रेलवे से कांडला और बज बज पर टैंक वेगन लदान में वृद्धि करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

(7) तेल कम्पनियों को कांडला, बम्बई और बज बज से उत्तरी क्षेत्र तक एम एस / एच एस डी बिजिंग बढ़ाने के लिए निदेश दिए गए हैं।

Indo-Malaysian Economic Cooperation

*599. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made by India and Malaysia to promote the realisation in both countries that economic interaction would benefit both;

(b) what are the areas in which there is economic cooperation between the two countries; and

(c) what steps have been taken to enhance cooperation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government of India have made every effort to disseminate information in the business sector in both countries, making them aware of the opportunities and benefits of economic interaction. Bilateral business contacts have also been encouraged. further, high level visits exchanged with Malaysia have helped to promote realisation in both countries that economic interaction could be of mutual benefit. We understand that similar efforts are being made by Malaysia.

(b) Areas of economic cooperation between the two countries include transport, telecommunications, power generation and transmission, hotels and entertainment field, consultancy, autoparts, textiles and software production.

(c) An India-Malaysia Joint Commission has been established at Ministerial level to enhance cooperation between the two countries. The two Governments have also encouraged the private sector in their respective countries to increase their substantive bilateral contacts and exchanges.

Fuctioning of IRCON

*600. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 28th April, 1995 under the caption, "Mismanagement seals fate of IRCON projects";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the broad outlines of the steps taken to streamline the functioning of IRCON?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The representation is based on incomplete/incorrect information. The functioning of IRCON is being constantly monitored at the appropriate levels as per guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises and also Company's Act.

Disconnection of Telephones for Non-Payment of Bills

6132. SHRI SARADA MOANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUINCATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of telephnes in Delhi have been lying disconnected for non-payment, due to the